

REMARKS

Existing Claims 50-52, 54-56, and 67-71 remain pending in this application. Claims 53 and 57-66 have been canceled. Claim 50 has been amended. Claim 66 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 72.

Claim 50 is rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failure to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner has suggested removal of the word "proximate" on line 7. Applicant agrees and has so amended claim 50. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, is requested.

The rejection of claims 53, 57-59, 62, and 63 under 35 USC §102(b) is rendered moot by the Applicant's withdrawal of the rejected claims. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §102(b) is requested.

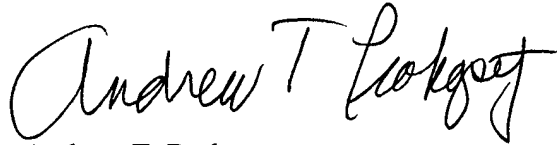
Remaining Claims 50-52, 54-56, and 67-71 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,694,726 to Wu in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,112,481 to Schiedegger et al.

It is noted that U.S. Patent No. 6,112,481 was filed on November 13, 1997 and issued on September 5, 2000, approximately 2 months prior to Applicant's filing date of November 16, 2000. Applicant made the invention prior to August 7, 2000. Counsel for Applicant received the information for filing a patent application on August 7, 2000 and diligently reduced the invention to practice by filing. Applicant thus reduced his invention to practice by actually making the invention prior to the effective date of the Schiedegger '481 patent. Enclosed is a Rule 131 Declaration addressing the reduction to practice of the invention by Applicant prior to, and thus swearing behind, the effective date of the '481 patent. Furthermore, the undersigned asserts that the photographs attached as Exhibit A to the Rule 131 Declaration were provided to the law firm of Olive and Olive, P.A. well prior to September 5, 2000 for the law firm's preparation of the application. Accordingly, the Examiner may no longer rely on the '481 patent as a reference to reject the claims, and the rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is requested to be withdrawn.

All of the claims pending, namely claims 50-52, 54-56, and 67-72, are now in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please note that Applicant's docket number has been changed from KEPM5001MP to **HAME5001AP**. Applicant requests that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office update their records to reflect this change.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew T. Prokopetz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Andrew T. Prokopetz
Reg. No. 52,134

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Dated: April 3, 2003